



General	117
Buoyage System	117
Currency	117
Government	117
Holidays	118
Industries	118
Languages	118
Time Zone	118
U.S. Embassy	118

General

The Ivory Coast is located on the W coast of Africa. The country is bounded by Liberia and Guinea on the W, Mali and Burkina Faso (formerly Upper Volta) on the N, and Ghana on the E.

The seacoast, about 275 miles long, lies between the mouth of the **Riviere Cavally** (4°22'N., 7°32'W.) and a position 2.5 miles W of Newtown. The W part of the coast is high and rocky. The country rises gradually to the interior. The E part of the coast is low and sandy, with a series of lagoons and connecting canals reaching some distance inland.

The most important characteristic of the country is the primeval forest, which covers about forty percent of the country's area. North of the forest lies an inland savanna zone of sandy soil, where the vegetation is sparse and the landscape unbroken. Only the Guinea Highlands in the NW, which rise up to 1,460m, break the monotony of the inland plain.

The climate varies with the terrain, from tropical along the coast to semiarid and hot in the N.

Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region A) is in effect. See chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

Currency

The official unit of currency is the franc of the Communauté Financière Africaine (FAC).

Government



Flag of Ivory Coast

The Ivory Coast has a constitution which provides for a President, who is directly elected to a 5-year term, and a 225-member unicameral National Assembly, also directly elected to 5-year terms. An upper house (Senate) is scheduled to be created in 2005.

The President, who is the head of state, appoints and leads a Council of Ministers. The country is divided into 58 depart-

ments, each under an appointed head and an elected General Council.

The legal system is based on French civil law and customary law.

In March 1983, the capital was changed from Abidjan (5°15'N., 4°01'W.) to Yamoussoukro, which is situated 155 miles NW. The new capital is not recognized by the United States, which maintains an official presence in Abidjan.

Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

New Year's Day	January 1
Easter Monday	Varies
Labor Day	May 1
Whit Monday	Varies
Assumption Day	August 15
All Saints' Day	November 1
National Feast Day	December 7
Christmas Day	December 25

Tabaski and Korite are Islamic holidays which vary depending upon the appearance of the moon.

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic year and is rigidly observed as a 30 fast, during the hours of daylight, by all Moslems. As a consequence, labor conditions may be difficult.

Industries

Agriculture, the principal industry, includes the production of coffee, cocoa, bananas, pineapples, palm oil, and cotton.

Current mineral production is negligible, but limited amounts of diamonds and gold are produced. Deposits of low-grade iron ore have been found and offshore exploration for oil is being carried out.

Languages

The official language is French. Dioula, one of over 60 native dialects, is also widely spoken.

Time Zone

The Time Zone description is ZULU. Daylight Savings Time is not observed.

World Time Zone Chart

<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/ref/pdf/802801.pdf>

U.S. Embassy

The U.S. Embassy is situated at 5 Rue Jesse Owens, Abidjan.

The mailing address is B. P. 1712, Abidjan 01.